

- **Derelict Vessel Program**

- The Legislation – Passed by 2002 State Legislature (ESHB 2376). This bill did a number of things to address the abandoned and derelict vessel problem:
 - First, it defined what an abandoned or derelict vessel is and the authorities of authorized public entities to remove them.
APEs include:
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Parks and Recreation Commission
 - Metropolitan Park Districts
 - Port Districts
 - City, town or county with ownership, management or jurisdiction over the aquatic lands where the vessel is located.
 - It also set up procedures for taking custody of a vessel:
 - Must mail notice to the last known address of the owner 20 days before taking custody;
 - Post notice on the vessel for 30 days;
 - Post notice in newspaper more than 10 days but less than 20 days before taking custody; and
 - Post notice on DNR's website.-
 - Made money available to help offset the cost of removal and disposal:
 - Provides reimbursement of 75% of the removal and disposal costs.
 - APEs are not assured of reimbursement. APE can receive assurance of payment from DNR for up to 2 years.
 - Funded through \$2.00 additional fee on annual vessel registrations.

The bill becomes effective on January 1, 2003 and has been codified in chapter 79.100 RCW.

- Program Development Progress
Program development is moving along rapidly and will be ready to implement on January 1, 2003.
 - Program Goals
 - Create a streamlined program, easy to implement, without bureaucracy.
 - Provide an incentive for local governments to participate.
 - Provide protection for the environment, natural resources, and human health and safety.
 - Program Development Areas:
 - Website:
 - Information required to be posted on DNR website

- Website is up, lots of information available, as well as a form for reporting abandoned and derelict vessels.
- Inventory:
 - The first step in development is creating an inventory
 - Form for reporting a vessel as abandoned or derelict created and distributed to all cities, counties, and ports in early September.
 - Inventory is an ongoing effort.
- Prioritization Criteria:
 - Designed to prioritize the vessels for funding, not removal.
 - APEs can still remove a vessel with a low priority, but reimbursement may not occur.
 - APEs can request the likelihood of reimbursement from DNR before removal.
 - Criteria will be finalized prior to effective date of statute.
 - Currently working with stakeholders on development.
- Program Guidelines:
 - Guidelines are also being developed to formalize how the program will operate.
 - The guidelines will discuss emergency procedures for vessels in danger of sinking and how to get reimbursed for those removals.
 - They will also talk about normal (non-emergency) procedures, how an APE can apply for an assurance of funds, the prioritization criteria, and which costs are considered reimbursable, to name a few topics.
 - Guidelines are being drafted, will be finalized prior to effective date of statute.